

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HK
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY(PER J.COVEY)

P - MR. SISCO

S/S-O P.SHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 094175

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

EO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, SA, US

SUBJECT: HAWKS FOR JORDAN

REF: JIDDA 2781

1. WE HAVE REPEATED TO YOU JIDDA REFTEL, IN WHICH
AMBASSADOR PORTER MAKES VALID POINT THAT IT WOULD HELP
HIM IN HIS APPROACH TO SAUDIS ON HAWK FINANCING IF
JORDANIANS WOULD (A) DENY OR RETRACT PRESS REPORTS (ABOUT
AIR DEFENSE DEAL BEING DEAD) ATTRIBUTED TO KING AND RIFAI,
AND (B) WOULD TELEPHONE FAHD TO EXPRESS THEIR CONTINUED
INTEREST IN SAUDI ASSISTANCE OR (C) GIVE US A MESSAGE TO
THIS EFFECT TO PASS TO THE SAUDIS.

2. YOU SHOULD INFORM KING AND RIFAI THAT AMBASSADOR PORTER
HOPES TO SEE PRINCE FAHD EARLY THIS WEEK IN FURTHER ALL-
OUT EFFORT TO OBTAIN AN INCREASE IN SAUDI FUNDING FOR
AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS INDICATING
THAT JORDANIANS HAVE GIVEN UP ON HAWK DEAL AND ARE NO
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LONGER INTERESTED HAVE UNDERSTANDABLY CAUSED CONSIDERABLE

CONFUSION AND CAN ONLY DIMINISH EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR
EFFORTS WITH SAUDIS. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT,
THEREFORE, IF HIS MAJESTY COULD INFORM PRINCE FAHD PRIOR

TO AMBASSADOR PORTER'S MEETING WITH HIM THAT JORDANIANS
DO IN FACT REMAIN INTERESTED IN PURCHASING AMERICAN AIR
DEFENSE SYSTEM WITH SAUDI FINANCING. WE CANNOT, OF
COURSE, GUARANTEE SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS WITH SAUDIS,
BUT IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF THOSE EFFORTS
FAILED BECAUSE SAUDIS WERE LEFT UNDER THE IMPRESSION,
WHICH THEY MUST NOW HAVE, THAT JORDANIANS ARE IN FACT
NO LONGER INTERESTED. ROBINSON

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